

Subject: Only in Hollywood Summer 2017 Newsletter

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To: <HEDlines@list.hollywoodbid.org>

**The [Summer 2017 Edition of Only in Hollywood Newsletter](#) is
available now!**



Finding Your Way Around

We've made some exciting progress on the Hollywood Wayfinding Signage Project! Through a series of steering committee meetings, a community open house, and presentations to external organizations, we are nearing completion of the preliminary design work for this program. In addition, we've secured a generous contribution of \$15,000 from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to help complete the preliminary planning and design work for this legacy project.

Continued on Page 6...



Hunt Design provided prototypes of different designs of wayfinding signs. Above is the design favored by the working group. (Photo by Devin Strecker)



Los Angeles Deputy Mayor for Homeland Security and Public Safety Jeff Gorell, second from left, visited the HPOA board of directors meeting on June 15, 2017. (Photo by Devin Strecker)

Public Safety Trends

Over the past five years, state officials and voters have approved changes to our criminal justice system that aim to reduce incarceration and prison overcrowding, save public funds and decriminalize certain behaviors. There are benefits associated with those aims, but it also appears that some of the interventions and systems changes that were promised in the wake of criminal justice reform have failed to keep up with the needs of people who have reentered our communities.

It is too soon to know for sure the causes behind the uptick in random erratic and violent behaviors we are witnessing in our community. Walking in the neighborhood, we see an increase in visible agitation owing to mental illness and/or substance abuse. We also know that our rates of homelessness are on the increase, and where some people have become newly homeless owing to job loss or losing their apartment (*see related article on page two*), others face housing challenges due to their mental illness or criminal record.

In talking with our sister BIDs in Los Angeles, we find that we are not alone. Similar

public safety concerns are arising in Downtown Los Angeles and Venice, in particular.

It is a complicated scenario, but both BIDs have begun to meet with local and state officials to describe how the neighborhood is impacted by these larger forces. In the last 60 days, conversations have been initiated with Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, **Jeff Gorell**; Councilmember **Mitch O'Farrell**; LAPD West Bureau Deputy Chief **Dennis Kato**; City Attorney **Mike Feuer**, and State Senator **Ben Allen**. Several board members from both BIDs and key property owners have walked Hollywood Blvd. with the councilmember, the deputy mayor and LAPD leadership.

Staff has drafted two blog posts to raise awareness of the issue: one about the deteriorating sense of safety on the sidewalks of Hollywood, and a second about the unintended consequences of Prop 47. Staff is quick to point out that this is not a homeless issue, per se. Instead, there is a criminal element, masquerading as homeless, that has become emboldened in

Continued on Page 4...

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